

Severe Weather



Awareness Week

Flash Flood/Flood Safety

Missouri Flood vs Tornado Deaths

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Flood	2	2	3	9	2	3	3	0	7	1
Tornado	7	13	4	19	3	4	158	6	0	0

Flash flood/flood events have been a major weather killer in Missouri for many years. Only recently, due to a number of major tornado outbreaks, has tornado deaths passed flood deaths over the past 10 years. But if you look at the table above, you will see that the flood related deaths have been very consistent, while tornado deaths tend to fluctuate quite a bit.

Many people do not realize the power of flowing water. Trees, buildings, automobiles, and people are easily swept away by flood waters.

Fact: Six inches of swiftly flowing can knock a person over.

Fact: Two feet of water will make most vehicles float.

Areas that are a major problem are **LOW WATER CROSSINGS**. As the name implies, during low water there is usually no problem. However, when the water rises, especially quickly as in a flash flood, low water crossings become **DEATH TRAPS**. Cars are easily swept downstream and often overturn, trapping the occupants inside. There is a very simple rule to follow when you encounter a flooded road in your vehicle. **Turn Around! Don't Drown!** (TADD: <http://tadd.weather.gov>)

NEVER drive into a flooded area! Be especially cautious at night when darkness will often hide flood dangers. If you live in a flood prone area, have a plan of action in case flooding strikes. Stay tuned to the latest weather developments and be ready to move quickly. Abandon personal property and move to higher ground.

Camping near small rivers is very popular, but can also be very dangerous. There were two deaths in 1997 because of people camping along a river that flooded. Remember that heavy rain upstream may lead to serious flooding at your location with little or no warning. Avoid camping along small rivers or streams when heavy rain is in the forecast anywhere in the stream basin.